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General Assembly

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Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
First session
28 February-3 March 2000

"Working paper on elements for a framework for cooperation and action on illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects" submitted by South Africa on 2 March 2000

Introduction

1. The challenge in addressing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and indeed the challenge for the 2001 Conference, is to marshal the necessary human and financial resources, to coordinate national and regional initiatives and to raise the profile of the issue to gain the active support from Governments, politicians and civil society in all States. The Conference should, therefore, provide an agreed framework for future action and cooperation to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. To this end the Conference should recognize that small arms and light weapons must be dealt with from an inclusive perspective of arms control and disarmament, post-conflict peace-building, conflict prevention and socio-economic development.

Scope

2. The 2001 Conference should focus on illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects based, among others, on the issues as identified in the reports of the Secretary-General on small arms (A/54/260 and Add.1). To effectively address its mandate, the focus of the conference should not only be limited to illicit trade it should also deal with issues of illicit manufacture, use, stockpile and transfer of these weapons, including ammunition. Inadequate legal controls over small arms and light weapons in the context of the manufacture, use, stockpiling and transfer of such weapons contribute to illicit trade of those weapons. It is, therefore, important that the Conference should also facilitate relevant national, regional and international action, cooperation and coordination in order to promote responsible policies in the manufacture, transfer and use of small arms, light weapons and ammunition. Only through increased transparency and better controls over the legal arms trade would the international community be able to effectively constrain illicit arms trade.

Objective

3. The Conference should increase cooperation in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and avoid duplication of initiatives in order to ensure that scarce resources are utilized effectively. The Conference should formulate a political declaration that sets out a framework for future cooperation and action on small arms and light

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weapons in all its aspects based upon the experiences of national and regional approaches.

Agenda

4. The agenda for the Conference should be all-inclusive and should provide opportunities to consider all national and regional approaches and measures to address the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. The approaches and measures to be considered should be based on the elements of the framework for future cooperation and action on small arms and light weapons.

Elements for a framework for cooperation and action on illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

5. The results of the Conference should include a political declaration that sets out a framework for future national, regional and international cooperation and action on small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and should identify and prioritize short, medium and long-term approaches that could prevent, combat and eradicate illicit trade in these weapons in all its aspects. The elements for such a framework could be clustered around the prevention, combating and eradication of the illicit manufacturing of, excessive and destabilizing accumulation of and trafficking in small arms and light weapons and could include the following:

(a) Preamble. The preamble should provide a recognition of the importance of national, regional and international cooperation and initiatives to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. The preamble should stress the need, especially during peace processes and post-conflict situations, to maintain effective control over small arms and light weapons as well as ammunition. It should also recognize the impact of small arms and light weapons on socio-economic development, reconstruction of post-conflict societies and the human costs of the use of these weapons on civilian populations;

(b) Improving systems to trace and eradicate illicit arms flows by:

(i) Ensuring the effective management and safe storage of weapons stockpiles and the destruction of surplus weapons. International cooperation would be needed in order to prevent the loss of small arms and light weapons from government stockpiles. Accurate inventories should be kept and States should seek an agreement to destroy all surplus or obsolete weapons in their stocks to prevent them from entering the illicit market;

(ii) Facilitating cooperation in tracing illicit arms and light weapons. Cooperation between States would be needed to facilitate the tracing of illicit weapons. Information exchange mechanisms should be created on a regional/international basis to assist in the identification of weak points in the chain of illicit supply and to take appropriate action;

(iii) Building the operational capacity of law enforcement agencies to implement controls on illicit trafficking. Law enforcement agencies need to be capacitated to implement any agreements reached. Important areas would include development and training for which resources should be earmarked to facilitate this important task;

(iv) Marking small arms efforts to prevent and combat the diversion of arms to illicit markets would be strengthened if there were an improved capacity to trace how weapons had actually become illicit. States should consider a mechanism or system whereby all small arms and light weapons should be marked at the point of manufacture. Accurate records should be kept of such markings. All unmarked arms should either be destroyed or marked when they come into the possession of the authorities;

(c) *Strengthening controls on accumulations* and transfer of small arms and light weapons by:

(i) Introducing controls on weapons transfers. Legitimate arms transfers can be diverted to illicit or unauthorized destinations through, amongst others, false end-user certificates. Criteria should be discussed to prevent such diversion;

(ii) Enforcing arms embargoes. Arms embargoes are in theory one of the most powerful

tools at the disposal of the Security Council. But too often in practice they are circumvented by unscrupulous Governments and private brokers. The effective implementation of United Nations arms embargoes should be addressed;

(iii) Controlling supplies of ammunition. Controls on the manufacture, transfer and accumulation of ammunition should be elaborated upon;

(iv) Regulating arms brokering and shipping agents. There is growing evidence that many of the small arms and light weapons entering conflict areas are transferred by arms brokering and shipping agents. The conference should seek an international agreement on the measures needed to control brokers. In particular, the establishment of national laws regulating brokering and criminalization of breaches of the regulations should be addressed;

(d) Promoting the removal of arms from society and the destruction of surplus arms by:

(i) Removing illicit and surplus small arms and light weapons from circulation. States should discuss experiences of different programmes — particularly the exchange of weapons for development programmes — and agree on guidelines for effective practice. Emphasis should be placed on the disposal of such arms through destruction;

(ii) Prioritizing the effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants. If combatants are not effectively disarmed and reintegrated when conflicts end and during peace processes, weapons get diverted into the illicit market. The Conference should agree on the inclusion of an effective disarmament component in all United Nations peacekeeping and peace support missions;

(iii) Restricting military small arms to government forces. Criteria should be established whereby States restrict the use of small arms designed for military and police use to such forces only;

(e) Enhancing transparency, information exchange and consultation on arms by:

(i) Enhancing transparency. The conference should agree on the development of national and international small arms transparency mechanisms that could address transparency of transfers of such arms;

(ii) Improving information exchange and consultation between Governments. States should agree on a number of international information exchanges that can help build confidence and facilitate agreement on the level of small arms and light weapons needed for national defence and the incidence and patterns of illicit arms flows;

(f) Improving international cooperation and assistance by ensuring that initiatives based on identified elements to combat, prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons are effectively implemented and that areas where States and regions could benefit from relevant international cooperation and assistance are identified. Such areas could include assistance in the destruction of surplus and illicit arms and improve the capacity of national law enforcement and arms control agencies and assistance for the demobilization and reintegration of former combatants;

(g) Strengthening international humanitarian law. The excessive and destabilizing accumulation and use of small arms and light weapons have resulted in civilian casualties. The issue of small arms in the context of international humanitarian law needs to be further explored.

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"Elements for consideration in the substantive preparation for the 2001 Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects", submitted by the European Union on 2 March 2000

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European Union : elements for consideration in the substantive preparation for the 2001 Conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

The excessive and uncontrolled accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons poses a threat to peace and security and reduces the prospects for sustainable development in many regions of the world. The EU offers the following proposals aimed at finding effective solutions to this problem, with particular concern for its impact in the most affected countries.

Since the illicit trade in SALW is closely linked to the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and transfer of such weapons, the Conference should deal with criminal breaches of existing arms legislation and export/import controls as well as with all relevant factors leading to the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and transfer, including those referred to in the reports of the UN Group of Governmental Experts. Substantive work during the PrepCom phase should allow for a comprehensive and integrated approach to security and development.

The EU is in this regard strongly in favour of a wide and comprehensive scope for the international conference to be convened in accordance with resolution 54/54 V. The conference should deal with both the preventive and reactive apects of the small arms problem and envisage effective ways and means

- to combat and contribute to ending the destabilising accumulation and spread of small arms,
- to contribute to the reduction of existing accumulations of these weapons to levels consistent with countries' legitimate security needs, and
- to help solve the problems caused by such accumulations.

The conference should equally consider a wide range of measures to be taken in tackling the problem of small arms. These measures could embrace inter alia:

- adequate regulation of production (including marking), transfer and holdings of small arms as well measures of transparency and confidence building,
- collection and destruction of all weapons which are not under legal possession or are not required for the purposes of national or collective defence and internal security,
- approaches and incentives for the collection of small arms in uncontrolled circulation or unregulated possession,
- international or regional cooperation to support measures for the collection and destruction of small arms and light weapons in the context of post-conflict demobilization,
- strengthening international cooperation among police, intelligence, customs and border control, at the sub-regional, regional and global level,
- assistance for measures at the national level to strengthen control of Governments on holdings, internal trade and and international transfer through improved legal and administrative procedures, including training of police, customs and border control officials,
- regional or subregional initiatives on small arms.

The objective of the conference could in the Union's view be politically or legally binding instruments. The conference should equally adopt a Programme of Action encompassing all areas of possible international cooperation on small arms. The agenda of the conference should be formulated accordingly.

For working purposes, substantive work on such measures in the PrepCom phase could be based around 5-6 clusters. As an example, the following clusters could be used:

- Prevention of illicit acquisition, transfer, transit and circulation of SALW
- Commitments regarding production, transfer, acquisition and holdings of SALW in accordance with legitimate national and collective defence and internal security needs, and destruction of surplus weapons
- Collection, control and destruction of illicit weapons
- Strengthening of international cooperation among police, intelligence, customs and border control
- Marking, record-keeping and tracing
- International co-operation and assistance

The substantive work under the clusters should cover both preventive and reactive aspects, including measures in the context of post-conflict efforts. Similarly, each cluster should allow for consideration of both supply and demand side aspects. The economic, social and development aspects of the issue need to be addressed. CBMs should be considered under each cluster.

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Note verbale dated 1 March 2000 from the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations and note verbale dated 2 March 2000 from the Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations transmitting the "Food-for-thought paper" entitled "Contribution to the realization of an international plan of action in the context of the 2001 Conference: marking, identification, and control of small arms and light weapons

A. Note verbale dated 1 March 2000 from the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and requests it to find enclosed a "food-for-thought paper" concerning a contribution to the implementation of an international plan of action for the 2001 Conference (see annex).

The Permanent Mission requests the secretariat of the Preparatory Committee to arrange for this document to be processed and to be circulated to all delegations as a document of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference and transmitted to representatives of accredited non-governmental organizations.

B. Note verbale dated 2 March 2000 from the Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat

The Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Preparatory Committee for the

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United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and requests it to find enclosed a "food-for-thought paper" concerning a contribution to the implementation of an international plan of action for the 2001 Conference (see annex).

The Mission would be grateful if the secretariat of the Preparatory Committee would arrange for this document to be processed and circulated to all delegations accredited to the United Nations and transmitted to representatives of accredited non-governmental organizations.

Annex

[Original: English and French]

FOOD-FOR-THOUGHT PAPER

CONTRIBUTION TO THE REALISATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 2001 CONFERENCE: MARKING, IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

The destabilising accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons[1] as well as their indiscriminate use have led to prolonged human suffering and created insecurity in many parts of the world. Small arms represent the main source of death and injuries in war, and more particularly in the internal conflicts that have become predominant in the 1990s. The accumulation and transfer of these weapons — both legal and illegal — have led to destabilisation in many regions, and to the escalation, intensification and prolongation of many conflicts. The consequences are a lasting obstacle to reconstruction, to peace-building, and to sustainable socio-economic development.

Taking up the challenge posed by small arms implies the adoption of a multifaceted approach, to be applied at national, regional and global levels. As there is no single solution to this problem, a number of courses of action must be considered simultaneously:

- Combating the illegal trade in small arms. Action involving police, customs and judicial co-operation is an initial response to this problem. As states want to go further in this direction and eliminate any possibility of refuge, they are now working to draw up a United Nations convention against transnational organised crime. One additional protocol to this future international agreement deals with measures to combat the illegal manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition.

- Strengthening the controls on the legal trade in small arms. This involves, first of all, strengthening the national legislative and regulatory frameworks, encouraging information exchange and transparency, and promoting the adoption of codes of conduct and voluntary regional moratoria. Such action should be backed up by efforts to improve the security and management of stocks.

- Managing post-conflict situations and contributing to conflict prevention. In many cases, rehabilitation is conceivable only through the implementation of arrangements for collecting and destroying surplus small arms, assisting victims, and demobilising former combatants and reintegrating them into society as part of a reconstruction programme. Preventive disarmament, on its part, is possible only when states explicitly request it. The restoration of the rule of law, based on the values of democracy and pluralism, may require restructuring of the armed forces, reform of the internal security forces, and the re-establishment of confidence, security and justice.

[1] Hereafter referred to as "small arms".

The value of these combined efforts, primarily applied at the regional level, was shown by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), when a "proportional and integrated approach to security and development" was implemented, particularly in Africa.

Following up the recommendations made by the UN Group of Governmental Experts in a report adopted at the 54th General Assembly of the United Nations, states have now agreed to hold an international conference in June/July 2001 on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

An action plan should then be approved, in order to speed up and guide action by the international community, and promote sustained consideration of this complex issue. This international action plan should thus include not only political elements but also legally binding instruments. This would make it possible to reflect the involvement of states in considering the general problem of small arms and light weapons, and to go into particular aspects in more depth.

Marking of small arms and light weapons is a promising area in this respect, where states could decide to make a concerted effort to enhance control of small arms flows. In its effort to identify the multiple solutions needed to address the issue of small arms, the Preparatory Committee could, inter alia, emphasise this course of action.

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There is wide recognition that international efforts to prevent and combat the destabilising accumulation and spread of small arms could be strengthened by improving the traceability of small arms flows. Enhanced control of small arms flows would allow legitimate authorities to identify diversion points as well as ways in which these arms fell into wrong hands. These authorities would then be better positioned to prevent those accumulations and diversions from taking place in the future.

To be effective, an international system for controlling small arms flows requires three key elements:

- marking of small arms and light weapons;
- registration of production, stocks and transfers of small arms and light weapons;
- traceability of small arms and light weapons, i.e. the ability of the authorities to follow and trace supply lines back to their source.

From this point of view, marking is not an end in itself, but is pivotal to identifying and controlling small arms.

The draft protocol against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition supplementary to the UN convention against transnational organised crime includes articles designed to establish internationally recognised standards and provisions regarding marking, registration and traceability of firearms.

The adoption of such provisions would undoubtedly represent a major contribution towards enhancing control of small arms flows. Yet, the scope of the protocol is not specifically

designed to meet the problems relating to the destabilising accumulation and spread of small arms. The draft protocol on firearms is a law enforcement instrument designed for the areas of crime prevention and penal justice. It does not enter into the realm of disarmament and arms control.

Yet, the report submitted to the United Nations by the Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms emphasises the importance to address the question of state-to-state transfers. The experts noted, on the one hand, that state-to-state transfers often become integral part of illegal supply lines for small arms and, on the other hand, that they do sometimes contribute to the accumulation and spread of weapons, with destabilising effects, in areas of tension and in regions affected by conflicts. By deciding to hold the Conference in 2001 on the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, the 54th General Assembly intentionally guided the efforts of the states in this direction.

Acknowledging the widespread international support regarding the necessity to control the flows of small arms, taking into account the provisions envisaged in the protocol on firearms and recognising the role of the 2001 Conference in this respect, we consider it necessary to set up a convention on marking, identification and control of small arms and light weapons. The international action plan, to be adopted during this Conference, could integrate this specific possibility of action.

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The objective of a convention on marking, identification and control of small arms and light weapons would be to contribute to enhanced control of small arms flows. It would facilitate the identification of their production and movements, and would make it possible to trace back the routes used by the illegal trade. The arrangements should be designed to reinforce the ability of the international community and individual states to prevent and combat the destabilising accumulation and spread of small arms.

The issue of marking has already been the subject of numerous studies and exchanges at various international workshops. Many delegations have demonstrated their interest in this subject and have initiated a dialogue, drawing in particular on the reflections of numerous non-governmental organisations, many of which participating in IANSA – International Action Network on Small Arms – as well as of the World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities.

Some essential principles could guide the approach to this project:

- The fundamental elements of marking, identification and control should be defined and accepted by all countries.
- Marking should allow ascertaining the origin of small arms and light weapons.
- Appropriate marking should be financially feasible. It should be based on a known and proven technique, and should be secure and reliable.
- An assessment mechanism should be developed, in order to keep up with technical developments in small arms and light weapons, and their marking.
- The registration of data for identification and control of small arms and light weapons should be carried out at a national level.
- The data recorded should contribute to efforts to combat illegal trade in as well as destabilising accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons.
- Traceability should be based on mechanisms involving co-operation and the exchange of information between states.
- Confidentiality issues should be taken into account.
- Finally, there should be provisions for a mechanism of assistance and international co-operation, so as to ensure broad participation in these efforts.

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Proposal dated 3 March 2000 submitted by Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on "The inter-sessional work of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects"

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects invites the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee to utilize the inter-sessional period to conduct open-ended informal consultations in a transparent manner to facilitate the widest possible exchange of views on all issues related to the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

The Preparatory Committee would also be in favour of informal inter-sessional meetings prior to the second session on all issues pertaining to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects provided that such meetings were held in New York in order to ensure the widest possible participation of States, in particular countries with limited representation, and to ensure continuity in the work of the Preparatory Committee.

The Preparatory Committee requests the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee to submit a report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on the outcome of consultations conducted in the inter-sessional period.

The Preparatory Committee proposes that this proposal be included in the report of the Preparatory Committee at its first session.

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First session
28 February-3 March 2000

Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

I. Introduction

1. At its fifty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 54/54 V of 15 December 1999, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"*The General Assembly*,

"...

"1. *Decides* to convene the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in June/July 2001;

"2. *Also decides* that the scope of the Conference shall be the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects;

"3. *Further decides* to establish a preparatory committee open to participation by all States, which will hold no fewer than three sessions, the first session to be held in New York from 28 February to 3 March 2000;

"4. *Decides* that the specialized agencies, other relevant intergovernmental organizations and relevant entities, having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and in the work of the General Assembly, shall participate, as observers, in the Preparatory Committee, and requests the Committee to take a decision on the modalities of attendance of non-governmental organizations at its sessions;

"5. *Requests* the Preparatory Committee to decide, at its first session, on the date and venue of the Conference in 2001 as well as on the dates and venue of its subsequent sessions;

"6. *Stresses* the need to ensure the widest possible and effective participation in the Conference in 2001;

"7. *Requests* the Preparatory Committee to make recommendations to the Conference on all relevant matters, including the objective, a draft agenda, draft rules of procedure and draft final documents, which will include a programme of action, and to decide on background documents to be made available in advance;

"8. *Invites* all Member States, in particular those that have not yet done so, in response to the note verbale of the Secretary-General dated 20 January 1999, to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the agenda and other relevant questions relating to the Conference;

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"9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the replies of Member States relevant to paragraph 8 above to the Preparatory Committee and to render the Preparatory Committee and the Conference all necessary assistance, including the provision of essential background information, relevant documents and summary records;

"10. *Endorses* the report of the Secretary-General on small arms, prepared with the assistance of the Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/38 J, bearing in mind the views of Member States on the report;

"11. *Calls upon* all Member States to implement the relevant recommendations contained in section IV of that report to the extent possible and where necessary in cooperation with appropriate international and regional organizations and/or through international and regional cooperation;

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the report as well as on the implementation of the relevant recommendations contained therein;

"13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to implement the relevant recommendations contained in section IV of the report within available financial resources and with any other assistance provided by States in a position to do so and in cooperation with appropriate international and regional organizations where necessary;

"14. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in order to assist in preventing the illicit trafficking in and illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons:

"(a) To carry out a study, within available financial resources and with any other assistance provided by Member States in a position to do so, and with the assistance of governmental experts appointed by him, on the basis of equitable geographical representation, while seeking the views of Member States, on the feasibility of restricting the manufacture and trade of such weapons to the manufacturers and dealers authorized by States, which will cover the brokering activities, particularly illicit activities, relating to small arms and light weapons, including transportation agents and financial transactions;

"(b) To submit the study as one of the background documents for the Conference to be held in 2001;

"15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled 'Small arms'."

2. The following States were represented at the first session of the Preparatory Committee: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of the Congo, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, and Yemen.

3. The following intergovernmental organizations and entities participated as observers in the first session of the Preparatory Committee: Caribbean Community, European Commission, Organization of the Islamic Conference, Organization of African Unity, International Committee of the Red Cross, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), United Nations Children's Fund and United Nations Development Programme.

II. Organization of the work of the Preparatory Committee

4. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 54/54 V, the Preparatory Committee held its first session at United Nations Headquarters from 28 February to 3 March 2000. During the session, the Preparatory Committee held a total of 10 meetings, 4 of which were held as closed meetings. A total of four meetings were devoted to the general debate, in which 57 participating States delivered statements on the issue of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

5. The Preparatory Committee elected the following officers:

Chairman:

Mr. Carlos Dos Santos (Mozambique)

Vice-Chairmen:

Mr. Yashar Aliyev (Azerbaijan)
Mr. Herbert Calhoun (United States of America)
Mr. Pierre Charasse (France)
Mr. Alioune Diagne (Senegal)
Ms. Dace Dobrāja (Latvia)
Mr. Mitsuro Donowaki (Japan)
Mr. Mário Duarte (Portugal)
Mr. Mark Gaillard (Canada)
Mr. Shen Guofang (China)
Mr. Samuel R. Insanally (Guyana)
Mr. Ismail Khairat (Egypt)
Mr. Valeri P. Kuchynski (Ukraine)
Mr. Fares M. Kuindwa (Kenya)
Mr. Gunnar Lindeman (Norway)
Mr. Filipe de Macedo Soares (Brazil)
Mr. Juan Miguel Miranda (Peru)
Mr. Hamid Baeidi Nejad (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Mr. Richard Pierce (Jamaica)
Mr. Denis Dangue Réwaka (Gabon)
Mr. Carlos D. Sorreta (Philippines)
Mr. Alyaksandr Sychov (Belarus)
Ms. Nury Vargas (Costa Rica)
Mr. Makmur Widodo (Indonesia)
Mr. Przemyslaw Wyganowski (Poland)

It was agreed that the endorsement of another Vice-Chairman from the Group of African States was being formalized.

Rapporteur:

At the 8th meeting, on 2 March, Mr. Gaillard (Canada) was elected as Rapporteur. At the 10th meeting, on 3 March, he resigned as Rapporteur.

6. Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Senior Political Affairs Officer, Department for Disarmament Affairs, served as Secretary of the Preparatory Committee.

7. At its 1st meeting, on 28 February, the Preparatory Committee adopted its agenda as contained in document A/CONF.192/PC/1.

8. In its consideration of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 54/54 V, concerning the request to the Preparatory Committee to decide, at its first session, on the date and the venue of the Conference in 2001 as well as on the dates and venue of its subsequent sessions, the Preparatory Committee had before it a non-paper prepared by the Secretariat containing a list of dates tentatively reserved in different venues.

9. In pursuance of paragraph 8 of the same resolution, inviting Member States to communicate their views on the agenda and other relevant questions relating to the Conference, the Secretary-General transmitted a note verbale dated 31 January 2000 to all Member States. The replies of three Member States, Argentina, Canada and Thailand, contained in document A/54/260/Add.1, were circulated during the first session of the Preparatory Committee.

10. The Preparatory Committee had before it the following reports of the Secretary-General:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the convening of an international conference on the illicit arms trade in all its aspects (A/54/260 and Add.1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on small arms, prepared with the assistance of the Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms (A/54/258).

11. A number of delegations circulated the following papers:

(a) Letter dated 3 February 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the documents of the second Oslo Meeting on Small Arms, held at Oslo on 6 and 7 December 1999 (A/54/739);

(b) Letter dated 24 February 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the draft international code of conduct on arms transfers (A/54/766-S/2000/146);

(c) Letter dated 23 February 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs transmitting decision AHG/DEC.137 (LXX) on the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons, adopted by the Organization of African Unity at its summit meeting, held at Algiers from 12 to 14 July 1999 (A/CONF.192/PC/2);

(d) Note verbale dated 25 February 2000 from the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations transmitting the European Union Programme for Preventing and Combating Illicit Trafficking in Conventional Arms and the European Union Code of Conduct (A/CONF.192/PC/3);

(e) "Working paper on elements for a framework for cooperation and action on illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects" submitted by South Africa on 2 March 2000 (A/CONF.192/PC/5);

(f) "Elements for consideration in the substantive preparation for the 2001 Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects", submitted by the European Union on 2 March 2000 (A/CONF.192/PC/6);

(g) Note verbale dated 1 March 2000 from the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations and note verbale dated 2 March 2000 from the Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations transmitting the "Food-for-thought paper" entitled "Contribution to the realization of an International Plan of Action in the context of the 2001 Conference: marking, identification and control of small arms and light weapons" (A/CONF.192/PC/7);

(h) Proposal dated 3 March 2000 submitted by Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on "The Intersessional work of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects" (A/CONF.192/PC/8).

12. A list of delegations participating in the first session of the Preparatory Committee is contained in document A/CONF.192/PC/4.

13. In pursuance of a decision of the General Assembly of 15 December 1999 that summary records be provided for only those meetings at which decisions would be taken, summary records were provided for three meetings.

III. Decisions of the Preparatory Committee

14. At its 10th meeting, on 3 March, the Preparatory Committee took the following decisions.

A. Modalities of attendance of non-governmental organizations at sessions of the Preparatory Committee

15. The Preparatory Committee decided to defer its decision on the modalities of attendance of non-governmental organizations at its sessions.

B. Dates and venues of the Conference in 2001 and subsequent sessions of the Preparatory Committee

16. At the request of the General Assembly in paragraph 5 of its resolution 54/54 V, the Preparatory Committee took the following decisions:

(a) Date and venue of the Conference in 2001

The Preparatory Committee decided to defer its decision on the date and venue of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

(b) Dates and venues of subsequent sessions of the Preparatory Committee

The Preparatory Committee decided to hold its second session at United Nations Headquarters from 8 to 19 January 2001. It also decided to hold its third session from 19 to 30 March 2001. The Committee noted the kind offer of the Government of Kenya to host its third session, and decided that the Secretariat would convey to that delegation the financial implications of the offer so that a decision could be taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

C. Decision on background documents to be made available in advance

17. The Preparatory Committee decided to continue its consideration of this item.

IV. Recommendations of the Preparatory Committee to the Conference

18. At its 10th meeting, on 3 March, in its consideration of paragraph 7 of resolution 54/54 V, the Preparatory Committee decided to continue its consideration of recommendations to the Conference on all relevant matters, including the objective, a draft agenda, draft rules of procedure and draft final documents, which would include a programme of action.